

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of forming a multi-layer dielectric structure, the method comprising:
forming a first dielectric layer on a substrate according to a CVD process; and
forming a second dielectric layer directly on the first dielectric layer according
5 to an ALD process.
2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first dielectric layer comprises one selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , Si_3N_3 , Ta_2O_5 , HfO_2 , ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , Y_2O_3 , Pr_2O_3 , La_2O_3 , Nb_2O_5 , SrTiO_3 (STO), BaSrTiO_3 (BST) and PbZrTiO_3
10 (PZT).
3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the second dielectric layer comprises one selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , Si_3N_3 , Al_2O_3 , Ta_2O_5 , HfO_2 , ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , Y_2O_3 , Pr_2O_3 , La_2O_3 , Nb_2O_5 , SrTiO_3 (STO), BaSrTiO_3 (BST) and PbZrTiO_3
15 (PZT).
4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first dielectric layer includes HfO_2 and the second dielectric layer includes Al_2O_3 .
- 20 5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein forming a first dielectric layer comprises forming the first dielectric layer at a temperature in a range from about 25°C to about 700°C and a pressure in a range from about 1×10^{-6} Torr to about 760 Torr during the CVD process, and wherein forming a second dielectric layer comprises forming the second dielectric layer at a temperature in a range from about
25 25°C to about 700°C and a pressure in a range from about 1×10^{-6} Torr to about 760 Torr during the ALD process.
6. A method of forming a multi-layer dielectric structure, the method comprising:
30 forming a first dielectric layer on a substrate according to an ALD process;
and

forming a second dielectric layer directly on the first dielectric layer according to a CVD process.

7. The method according to Claim 6, wherein the first dielectric layer
5 comprises one selected from the group consisting of SiO₂, Si₃N₃, Ta₂O₅, HfO₂, ZrO₂, TiO₂, Y₂O₃, Pr₂O₃, La₂O₃, Nb₂O₅, SrTiO₃ (STO), BaSrTiO₃ (BST) and PbZrTiO₃ (PZT).

8. The method according to Claim 6, wherein the second dielectric layer
comprises one selected from the group consisting of SiO₂, Si₃N₃, Al₂O₃, Ta₂O₅, HfO₂,
10 ZrO₂, TiO₂, Y₂O₃, Pr₂O₃, La₂O₃, Nb₂O₅, SrTiO₃ (STO), BaSrTiO₃ (BST) and PbZrTiO₃ (PZT).

9. The method according to Claim 6, wherein the first dielectric layer
includes HfO₂ and the second dielectric layer includes Al₂O₃.
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10. A method of forming an integrated circuit capacitor, the method
comprising:
forming a first electrode on a substrate;
forming a first dielectric layer on the first electrode using a first one of an
20 ALD process and a CVD process;
forming a second dielectric layer on the first dielectric layer using a second
one of the ALD process and the CVD process; and
forming a second electrode on the second dielectric layer.

25 11. The method according to Claim 10, wherein forming a first dielectric
layer comprises forming the first dielectric layer in a first chamber, and wherein
forming a second dielectric layer comprises forming the second dielectric layer in a
second chamber.

30 12. The method according to Claim 11, further comprising transferring the
substrate after forming the first dielectric layer while maintaining a vacuum on the
substrate.

13. The method according to Claim 12, wherein transferring the substrate after forming the first dielectric layer while maintaining a vacuum on the substrate comprises transferring the substrate via a transfer chamber configured to be selectively coupled to the first and second chambers.

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14. The method according to Claim 10:

wherein the first dielectric layer comprises one selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , Si_3N_3 , Ta_2O_5 , HfO_2 , ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , Y_2O_3 , Pr_2O_3 , La_2O_3 , Nb_2O_5 , SrTiO_3 (STO), BaSrTiO_3 (BST) and PbZrTiO_3 (PZT); and

10 wherein the second dielectric layer comprises one selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , Si_3N_3 , Al_2O_3 , Ta_2O_5 , HfO_2 , ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , Y_2O_3 , Pr_2O_3 , La_2O_3 , Nb_2O_5 , SrTiO_3 (STO), BaSrTiO_3 (BST) and PbZrTiO_3 (PZT).

15. The method according to Claim 10:

15 wherein the first dielectric layer comprises one selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , Si_3N_3 , Al_2O_3 , Ta_2O_5 , HfO_2 , ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , Y_2O_3 , Pr_2O_3 , La_2O_3 , Nb_2O_5 , SrTiO_3 (STO), BaSrTiO_3 (BST) and PbZrTiO_3 (PZT); and

wherein the second dielectric layer comprises one selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , Si_3N_3 , Ta_2O_5 , HfO_2 , ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , Y_2O_3 , Pr_2O_3 , La_2O_3 , Nb_2O_5 , SrTiO_3 (STO), BaSrTiO_3 (BST) and PbZrTiO_3 (PZT).

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16. An apparatus for forming multi-layer dielectric structures on a semiconductor substrate, the apparatus comprising:

25 a first chamber configured to form dielectric layers according to a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) process;

a second chamber configured to form dielectric layers according to an atomic layer deposition (ALD) process; and

means for providing a substrate to one of the first and second chambers for formation of a first dielectric layer on the substrate and for automatically transferring the substrate to a second one of the first and second chambers for formation of a second dielectric layer directly on the first dielectric layer.

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17. The apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the means for providing the substrate to a first one of the first and second chambers for formation of a first

dielectric layer on the substrate and for automatically transferring the substrate to the second one of the first and second chambers for formation of a second dielectric layer on the first dielectric layer comprises means for transferring the substrate between the first and second chambers while maintaining a vacuum on the substrate.

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18. The apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the means for transferring the substrate between the first and second chambers while maintaining a vacuum on the substrate comprises a transfer chamber configured to be selectively coupled to the first and second chambers.

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19. The apparatus according to Claim 18, further comprising:
a loadlock chamber configured to vacuumize the transfer chamber; and
a cooling chamber configured to maintain a temperature of the transfer chamber.

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20. The apparatus according to Claim 16:
wherein the first chamber is configured to form dielectric layers of a material selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , Si_3N_3 , Al_2O_3 , Ta_2O_5 , HfO_2 , ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , Y_2O_3 , Pr_2O_3 , La_2O_3 , Nb_2O_5 , SrTiO_3 (STO), BaSrTiO_3 (BST) and PbZrTiO_3 (PZT); and
wherein the second chamber is configured to form dielectric layers of a material selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , Si_3N_3 , Al_2O_3 , Ta_2O_5 , HfO_2 , ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , Y_2O_3 , Pr_2O_3 , La_2O_3 , Nb_2O_5 , SrTiO_3 (STO), BaSrTiO_3 (BST) and PbZrTiO_3 (PZT).